

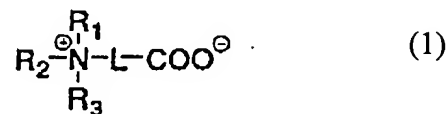
AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

Claim 1. (currently amended): An ink set comprising at least four kinds of inks including colorless ink, wherein at least one ink of the at least four kinds of inks contains a betaine compound and a soluble dye and wherein the at least one ink contains a surfactant other than the betaine compound.

Claim 2. (original): The ink set as claimed in claim 1, wherein the betaine compound is represented by the following formula (1):



wherein R₁, R₂ and R₃ each represents an alkyl group, an aryl group or a heterocyclic group, at least two of R₁, R₂ and R₃ may be linked with each other to form a ring structure; L represents a divalent linking group; and at least one of R₁, R₂, R₃ and L is a group having from 8 to 40 carbon atoms.

Claim 3. (original): The ink set as claimed in claim 2, wherein R_1 , R_2 and R_3 in formula (1) each represents an alkyl group.

Claim 4. (original): The ink set as claimed in claim 2, wherein at least one of R_1 , R_2 , R_3 and L is a linear alkyl group having from 8 to 40 carbon atoms.

Claim 5. (original): The ink set as claimed in claim 2, wherein at least one of R_1 , R_2 and R_3 is a linear alkyl group having from 8 to 40 carbon atoms.

Claim 6. (original): The ink set as claimed in claim 1, wherein the at least four kinds of inks including colorless ink are inks comprising a dye dissolved in water or an organic solvent.

Claim 7. (original): The ink set as claimed in claim 1, wherein the at least four kinds of inks including colorless ink are inks of an aqueous solution type containing a water-soluble dye.

Claim 8. (original): The ink set as claimed in claim 1, wherein the at least one ink of at least four kinds of inks contains the betaine compound in a proportion of from 0.01 to 20 wt%.

Claim 9. (original): The ink set as claimed in claim 1, wherein all of the at least four kinds of inks including colorless ink contain the betaine compound.

Claim 10. (original): An ink jet recording method which comprises image-recording by using the ink set claimed in claim 1 with an ink jet printer.

Claim 11. (new) The ink set as claimed in claim 1, wherein the dye is a water-soluble dye.

Claim 12. (canceled).

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116
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Claim 13. (currently amended) The ink set as claimed in claim ~~12~~1, wherein the amount of the surfactant is from 0.001 to 15 wt% based on the ink.